

REMARKS

Claims 4, 23 and 28 are pending. Claim 4 has been amended. Claims 1-3, 5-9 and 11-12 were cancelled. Claims 10 and 13-22 were withdrawn.

Claims 4 and 28 were rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,273,938 (Lin et al.).

Claim 4 has been amended to recite that a rear surface of the bridge is recessed relative to a rear surface of the insulating resin and that the rear surface of the bridge is covered by an insulating film. Support for that amendment can be found, for example, in FIGs. 1D and 1C. Referring to FIG. 1D, for example, a rear surface of a bridge 53 is recessed relative to a rear surface of the insulating resin (indicated by hatch marks). Referring to FIG. 1C, for example, an insulating film 62 covers the rear surface of the bridge 53. Implementing the features recited in claim 1 may advantageously reduce the possibility of a short circuit occurring between the bridge and an external conductive surface during assembly and soldering. Additionally, the possibility of accidentally soldering the bridge to an external component may be reduced. No new matter has been added.

FIG. 3 of the Lin et al. patent discloses two semiconductor die 15, 17 that are coupled by wire bonds 18 to conductive traces 13. The die, wire bonds and portions of the conductive traces are covered by an insulating resin 20. The rear surface of each conductive trace 13 is flush with the rear surface of the insulating resin 20. Referring now to FIG. 4 of the Lin et al. patent, two other semiconductor die 21 and 23 are mounted above semiconductor die 17 and 15, respectively. An insulating adhesive material 22 is positioned between semiconductor die 21 and semiconductor die 17. Referring now to FIG. 5 of the Lin et al. patent, a resin body is formed over the semiconductor die 21 and 23 and one of the conductive traces 13.

The Lin et al. patent fails to disclose or suggest a rear surface of a bridge that is recessed relative to a rear surface of insulating resin and that is covered by an insulating film, as recited by claim 4. Instead, the rear surface of each conductive trace 13 is flush with a rear surface of insulating resin 20.

Claim 4 should be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

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Claim 28 depends from claim 4 and, therefore, should be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 4.

Claim 23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over the Lin et al. patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,001,671 (Fjelstad).

Claim 23 depends from claim 4, which has been amended to recite that a rear surface of the bridge is recessed relative to a rear surface of the insulating resin and that a rear surface of the bridge is covered by an insulating film. None of the asserted references discloses or suggests that feature or the subject matter as a whole.

Claim 23 should be allowable for at least that reason.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Enclosed is a \$450 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

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Respectfully submitted,

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